



# SRMT Kawennì:ios

*Helping Build a Better Tomorrow*

Seskéha / August 2009

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## **Good Words of Welcome,**

She:kon Sewakwe:kon Akwesasro:non,

This has been a very eventful summer in Akwesasne this year. I can't recall in my short life time a summer with so much rain. I've begun to ponder whether I should raise rice or tomatoes!

I congratulate all the recent high school and college graduates on their accomplishments and, hopefully, this is just a start in their pursuit of academic excellence. I think it is also appropriate at this time to honor all the parents of these students, because our job as parents is to see that our children have all the tools readily available to them to achieve what they are capable of achieving.

I have been involved a lot this summer with the Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse association as a parent, volunteer and manager for the Akwesasne Storm Midget "A" lacrosse team. I would like thank all the community members who donate their time and energy with the various fundraising efforts to help our youth in Akwesasne. At this time, I would like to acknowledge one person in particular -- Dick Laffin. Dick has spent many years donating his time to the kids of this community because he truly cares about his community and its people. We need more people like him in our community.

In closing, I would like to comment on a recent editorial published in the Indian Time newspaper last week by Danielle Lazore-Thompson. I think for the future of our community and those yet to be seen, our duty is to ensure that we leave this community a better place than when we were here. It is our responsibility -- don't leave it for someone else. Stand up, speak out and show up when the time calls for it. I think now is the time to address the senseless violence in our community and everyone needs to answer the basic question Danielle asked: "When is enough, enough?" I, for one, say that time is now.

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Sub-Chief Ron LaFrance



# Business Feature - The School Zone

By: Steven B. Cook

Director of Economic Development

Friday, August 28th, 2009 marked the one-year anniversary of *The School Zone*, a store created by two local teachers to help teachers, parents, child care providers and students enrich the learning process by making learning fun, colorful and productive.

*The School Zone* specializes in creative tools designed to help teachers maintain student interest and increase productivity. The products they carry help engage young minds and assist teachers in creating fun and meaningful learning materials.

Stephanie Cook & Lisa Cook created *The School Zone* after having realized that there were no school supply stores within several hours of Akwesasne and they decided to create a business for those who work with children.

“We created *The School Zone* out of need and wanted to bring these vendors/products up to the North Country,” said Stephanie. “We try to carry what no one else sells,” said Lisa.



*The School Zone* carries bulletin board sets, stickers, incentive charts, posters, banners, flashcards, games, trimmers and much, much more. They carry products by *Trend*, *Teacher Created Resources*, *Melissa & Doug*, *Native Reflections* and *Carson-Dellosa*. They are constantly expanding their product line and look forward to suggestions on what else to carry in their inventory.

If you are looking for something special, they have catalogues and are more than happy to help you find it.

Despite a nation-wide recession, *The School Zone* has survived its first year in business which for many businesses, is the most difficult. The SRMT Office of Economic Development congratulates them on their success and encourages everyone to stop by and visit them.

*The School Zone* shares accommodations with Cooks Greenery, another family owned business which has been in operation since 1988.



## The School Zone

1068 State Route 37

Akwesasne, NY 13655

Phone: 518-358-2991, FAX: 518-358-6378

e-mail: [theschoolzone@yahoo.com](mailto:theschoolzone@yahoo.com)

Visit us at: [www.theschoolzoneonline.com](http://www.theschoolzoneonline.com)

*The North Country's first stop for educational teaching supplies!*

.....

# Tribe Hires New General Manager For Akwesasne Mohawk Casino

*By David T. Staddon, Editor*

A new General Manager has taken over the helm of the casino. Patrick Bassney began his duties as General Manager on Tuesday, July 14th. Bassney brings a solid casino background to Akwesasne, with experience in the Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe and Atlantic City gaming markets where he served in many roles including Vice President of Hotel Operations, Director of Casino Marketing and General Manager. He also has experience in Indian Country where he opened Turning Stone Casino, just outside of Syracuse in Verona, New York as Vice President of Hotel Operations.

"I'm very happy to begin my work here at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino," remarked Bassney. "This casino has great potential to be a destination resort, especially considering the attractions of the North Country, along with the tradition of Mohawk hospitality. I appreciate this opportunity from the Tribe and Tribal Council to take the challenge of managing the casino."

Despite the fact that the casino saw a downturn in business due to the recent closing of the Seaway International Bridge, Bassney feels that the casino is well positioned geographically and in relation to its competition. "We're ready to take this gaming property to the next level and I will be working with the staff to identify ways to improve our operations at all levels," asserted Bassney.

Bassney graduated from Paul Smith's College outside of Lake Placid, NY with a degree in Hospitality Management, and went onto University of Las Vegas where he received his Bachelor's Degree, also in Hospitality Management. He then began his extensive casino career in Las Vegas.

"We're pleased to have somebody of this caliber," said Tribal Chief James Ransom. "Patrick brings a wealth of experience to the job and will help us continue to keep the economy of the North Country strong." Attracting the right kind of management talent to the North Country can sometimes be a challenge. Tribal Chief Monica Jacobs noted, "Now that we are one of the largest employers in the North Country, and as we continue to grow, we are starting to be a more attractive option to candidates who are looking for senior management positions."

"We have high expectations for our new General Manager," said Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. "And we are impressed with Patrick's credentials and the energy he is bringing to the job. I am confident that he will take our casino in many positive directions and will grow the business." Currently the casino employs 700 employees and pumps millions of dollars into the local and regional economies.



*Casino  
has "Great  
Potential"  
-Patrick Bassney*





# New Director for Outreach Nursing

*Deborah Martin, IHS Director*

Please join us in welcoming Theresa Gardner, Family Nurse Practitioner, as the new Director for our Outreach Nursing Department.

Theresa has been employed with Health Services since 1989, providing health care for our community. During the last twenty years, Theresa has gained the confidence of our community by providing excellent health care, by educating, treating and following up with her patients.

Theresa's move to the Medical Outreach Department is a natural process in providing community health care. Demands placed on the Outreach Nursing Department, such as increased post-op hospital discharges, wound care, and other

medical issues have brought the need for a clinician to provide direction for the nursing staff in the form of medical orders and patient follow-up orders.

Our medical Outreach Nursing staff has always provided excellent nursing care and together, with Theresa as the director, this department will provide excellent nursing service to meet our community's needs.

Services provided by the Outreach Nursing Department are: post-op dressings; wound care; wellness check-up; medications review; safety assessment; patient education; foot care; foot care clinics; post-natal care; smoking cessations; and immunizations.



# New Environmental Outreach Instructor

*By Les Benedict, Assistant Director  
Environment Division*

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division is pleased to announce the hiring of Julia Jacobs as the Environmental Outreach Instructor.

Julia will be responsible for providing information and education on pesticides, air quality, and solid waste to begin with and expanding to other media later on. She will



use various media and forums for dissemination of environmental information as well as making public appearances at meetings and events.

Julia has an extensive background in public education including instruction and administration.

Please join us in welcoming her to the Tribe and to the Environment Division.

# Food Distribution Receives Recognition

By David T. Staddon, Editor



The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Food Distribution Program received a Service Recognition from the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (N.A.F.D.P.I.R.). In June, while attending the Food Distribution conference in St. Louis, Missouri, Sharon Thompson received a certificate for 25 years of dedicated service to the Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations. Sharon has worked for the program since 1983 as the Distribution Clerk and became the Director in 1985. She gives a lot of credit to former Director Sheila Marshall for getting the program off the ground and passing along her knowledge and experience to her.

"Our program has come a long way since 1983 with the improvement of the monthly goods package geared toward a healthier way of life," said Thompson. "Reducing the sodium and sugar in the fruits and vegetables has been an important step in improving peoples' lives."

The Food Distribution Program's staff consists of two people, with Lucy Barnes as the Distribution Clerk and Sharon Thompson as the Director. Lucy

has been with the program for seventeen years. "We have a very good working relationship, so I think that's why our program runs so well, stated Thompson.

The SRMT's Food Distribution Program provides valuable service to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal community. They make a variety of foods available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture



(U.S.D.A.) such as vegetables, fruits, fruit/vegetable juices, meats, dry beans, bakery items, commodity items and ready-to-eat cereals in addition to some miscellaneous and specialty items.

The U.S. Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the (U.S.D.A.), administers the program. Currently, the program provides benefits to approximately 271 tribes. The Federal Government sets the eligibility for the program that is based on income and resource standards.

The SRMT's Food Distribution building is located right behind the Tribal Community Building on State Route 37 in Akwesasne. To find out more about the program and eligibility, please call 518-358-2272, ext. 212.





# Giving Back



Funeral Donations	\$ 2,500
Community Assistance	750
Medical Assistance	500
Community Events	20,300

# On The Road

Chiefs Jim Ransom and Mark Garrow travelled to Monticello, NY on Ohiarhko:wa/July 11th to meet with Empire Resorts to discuss whether the partnership for the proposed Monticello Casino can be restored.

On Ohiarhko:wa/July 27, Chief James Ransom attended *Regional Collaboration and Tribal Partnerships* training provided by the Department of Homeland Security in Verona , New York. The following day, he travelled to Syracuse to meet with National Grid.

Chief Monica Jacobs travelled to Syracuse, New York for the *North-Eastern Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation* training session on Ohiarhko:wa/July 7 -10, 2009.

The *2009 National Indian Gaming Association Summer Legislative Summit* was held Ohiarhko:wa/ July 20 - 23 in Washington, D.C. Chief Monica Jacobs, Chief Mark Garrow and Sub-Chief Pam Brown attended.

# SRMT Kawennì'ios

David Trout Staddon  
Editor

Aimée Benedict-Debo  
Publications Manager

Adrianne Jacobs  
Photographer

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is published monthly by the  
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Public Information Office  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
(518) 358-2272  
[public.information@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:public.information@srmt-nsn.gov)  
[www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)

# New Faces

Barbara Benedict	Human Services - Social Services	Administrative Assistant
Cynthia M. Cole	IHS - Partridge House	Counselor - Training
Ella Fuller	Human Services - Social Services	Case Worker
David E. LaPlant	Human Services	Attorney
Leona Phillips	Human Services - STOP	Case Worker
Chad Sherman	Akwesasne Group Home	Youth Worker
Tracey L. Sunday	Akwesasne Group Home	Youth Worker

**Summer Students:** Alexandra Bero, Nathan Bero, Zachary D. Bonaparte, Teiawentathe Burns, Jessica Conners, Kelly P. Cook, Rori Francis-Herne, Toni Garrow, Charles Gray, Jake J. Hopps, Tsionatiao Laughing, Conway Leaf, Amber McCargar, Teresa Mitchell, Christian Ransom, Sierra Rourke, Jessica Tarbell, Andrew Terrance.

# Calendar

## *Seskehko:wa/September*

- 3rd - St. Regis Mohawk, Salmon River, AMBE & Massena Schools - Classes begin
- 7th - Labor Day - Tribal offices and transfer station closed
- 8th - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 pm - Tribal Clerks office
- 8th & 9th - ECDP Headstart Classrooms 1 & 2 alternate 1/2 day
- 10th - ECDP Headstart begins full days
- 12th - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10 am - Community Building
- 20th - PBS Native American Series - 1 pm - *Way of the Warrior*

# Jobs

- Registered Nurse - IHS Reproductive Study
- Gaming - Security Guard

**Current postings and complete job descriptions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)**



# Repair Emergency Assistance Program

*By Rod Garrow, HIP Director*

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's HIP Program is now taking applications for the Repair Emergency Assistance Program.

A request for assistance can be made by picking up an application at the HIP office; Tribal Administration office or at the Reception area at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Community Building.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

- Income verification for all adults in household
- If handicapped or have a health disability, a doctor's certification
- Proof of land ownership
- Request must include the information about the home
  - Location
  - Brief description of the problems
  - Electricity
  - Type of Sewer
  - Water Source (waterline/well, etc.)
  - Number of Bedrooms
  - Bathroom facilities
  - Type of roofing
  - Type of windows
  - Type of Basement (full, crawl space, wood, etc.)
  - Does dwelling need handicap fixtures



## CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE:

Priority is given to seniors (55 and over) in need of assistance for home repairs. The REAP will consider applicants if they meet the following requirements:

- An enrolled member of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; Mohawk Nation Council and the Kanienkehaka longhouse.
- Reside on the Southern portion of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation
- Must own and live in the house that requires repairs.

Inquiries about the Repair Emergency Assistance Program should be made to:

Rod Garrow  
HIP Director  
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, New York 13655.

518-358-2272 ext. 177

Deadline for submission is: August 21, 2009.





# Seneca Nation and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Benefit from Recovery Act Funds

*By John Senn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

The Seneca Nation of Indians and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe will have improved access to vital water services through funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Indian Health Service (IHS) today announced \$90 million nationwide in 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects designed to better protect human and environmental health in Indian Country. More than \$2 million of that money will be provided to the Seneca Nation and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

"This Recovery Act funding will provide much needed improvements to drinking water and waste water systems for these nations at the same time it will create job opportunities," said George Pavlou, EPA Regional Administrator. "This extra funding creates green jobs to help pull us out of this downturn and ensure the long-term strength of our economy and our environment."

Through the IHS, EPA is providing \$1,343,330 for the Seneca Nation of Indians to replace the Thomas Indian Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is deteriorated. The nation will also connect 127 homes to the plant. EPA is similarly providing \$349,000 in funding for the Seneca Nation of Indians to upgrade the drinking water distribution system in the Cattaraugus Territory and to add connections to provide water to the Burning Springs and Versailles communities.

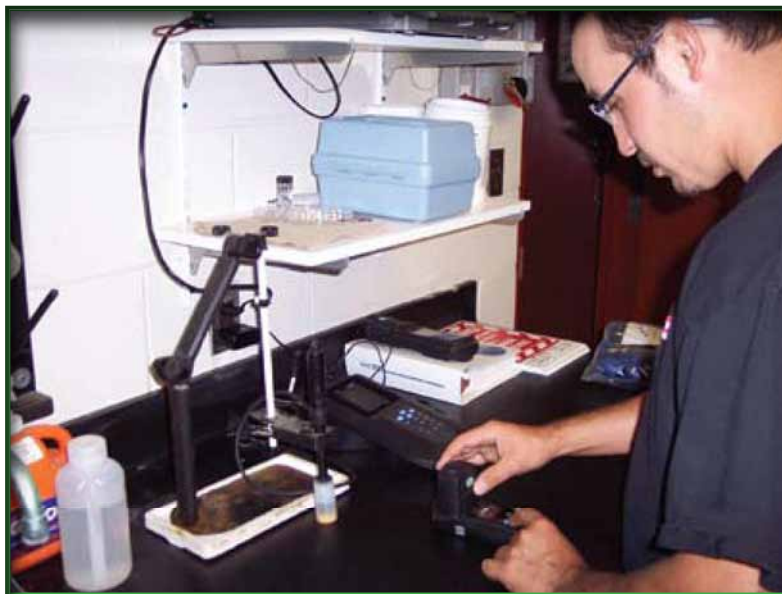
The EPA will also provide \$349,000 in funding through the IHS to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to upgrade and improve its St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Filtration Plant. The system will be upgraded and expanded to improve its ability to treat drinking water. In addition, the tribe will construct a new laboratory that it will use to test the water to ensure it meets drinking water standards.

Continuing a tradition spanning 20 years, EPA and IHS's combined effort to improve water services in Indian Country contributed to their identification of 95 wastewater and 64 drinking water priority projects to be completed by IHS's Sanitation Facilities Construction

Program through EPA Recovery Act funds. The projects exceed the Recovery Act requirement that 20 percent of the funds be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009, and has directed that the recovery act be implemented with unprecedented transparency and accountability. To that end, the American people can see how every dollar is being invested at [recovery.gov](http://www.epa.gov/recovery).

More information about all the EPA Recovery Act water efforts: <http://www.epa.gov/water/eparecovery/>.



*Larry Jock, Water/Wastewater Operator, tests water in present lab.*

# 19th Annual Wellness Day - A Huge Success

*By Kim McElwain,  
Public Health Nutritionist  
WIC Coordinator*



The Health Promotion, Disease and Injury Prevention Committee thanks everyone for their participation in this years 19th Annual Wellness Day. This year we had over 40 vendors who were giving out wellness information and we had four vendors that were selling crafts or other items. We also thank all our food vendors. Having a

variety of foods this year was great!

We thank CKON radio for their great live broadcasting and doing daily commercials for Wellness Day, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for their continued support, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino for their



*The Magic School Bus arrives!  
The SRMT Air Quality Program  
along with ALCOA sponsored  
Scholastics Magic School Bus.*



*The Magic School  
Bus was popular  
with all ages.  
Everyone was  
welcome aboard  
the bus to enjoy the  
interactive games  
and displays.*







*Census Educator,  
Alma Ransom checks  
to see if she still  
has any Mohawk  
Medium (XXL)  
Census t-shirts to give  
away.*



support in organizing and funding this event, and B&D Entertainment for working with us in obtaining the jumping inflatables. We also thank the Environment Division and ALCOA for securing the Magic School Bus. It was a fantastic turn-out of children to see the Magic School Bus. We hope they will be returning next year for our 20th year anniversary.

We greatly appreciate First American's IGA's generosity. The last two Wellness Days have been a huge success because of the space they allowed us to use. We hope that we have not left anyone out, but "thank-you" to everyone who participated and attended Wellness Day. This year was the biggest turn-out with over 500 people attending.

*Mona Romeo from Human Services with junior  
Mohawk war party from the ECDP Daycare Program.*



*Where there's smoke,  
there's Sub-Chief  
Ron LaFrance!  
The HAVFD cooks  
up their famous  
fireman's chicken  
BBQ. The 350 meals  
were gone by 12:30.*



There has been a recent discovery that vermiculite insulation that is in homes has been contaminated with asbestos. I know the word is scary but **DON'T PANIC**. The vermiculite was mined out of Libby, Montana and was sold as Zonolite. It was mined before 1990. However, do not assume because you purchased your insulation after 1990 that it is safe, if you have vermiculite insulation in your home, assume it is contaminated.

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring mineral composed of shiny flakes resembling mica. When heated it expands to form a very light-weight, fire-resistant and odorless material that has been used in numerous products including insulation. The particles range in size from very small to large, coarse pieces up to nearly an inch long.

The photos show what vermiculite looks like. To check to see if you have this in your house, look at your insulation in your attic without disturbing it. Vermiculite insulation is a pebble-like, pour-in product and is usually gray-brown or silver-gold in color.

Removing the insulation yourself can potentially spread harmful asbestos fibers throughout your home. If you are renovating or just want it out of your home, use a trained and certified professional (licensed asbestos removal company) to remove the vermiculite insulation. The professional conducts the removal with a "negative pressure enclosure" which will prevent any asbestos fibers from escaping the attic into the rest of the house.

# Vermiculite Insulation

By Angela Benedict-Dunn



For more information on vermiculite and asbestos, visit EPA's website [www.epa.gov/asbestos](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos) or call EPA's Toxic Substance Control Act Assistance information Service: Asbestos Line: 1-800-471-7127.

Health Information: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos>

Worker Safety: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): <http://www.osha.gov/sltc/asbestos>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asbestos>

Consumer Products: Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC): <http://www.cpsc.gov>

Mineralogy: United States Geological Survey (USGS): <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/asbestos>

Remember: If you have vermiculite insulation assume it contains asbestos and **DO NOT DISTURB IT!** Any disturbance could potentially release asbestos fibers into the air. If you have to go in your attic, limit the number of trips and shorten the length of the trips in order to limit your exposure. Common dust masks **DO NOT** protect you against asbestos fibers.

The SRMT Environment Division can print out some fact sheets for you -- just contact us at 518-358-5937.



## Owera' shon: a (The Winds)

*The idea of this column is to promote clean air practices in each of our homes, in our personal behaviors throughout each day, in line with our Mohawk cultural value system. In no way is this column meant to be an indictment of anything that you choose to do. Instead, this is in place as a simple thought-provoking tool, to reveal some good ideas and some interesting notions. Please present any comments, complaints, or questions to Angela Benedict-Dunn, Air Quality Manager or Ken Jock, Environment Division Director. We welcome your thoughts and opinions.*

# Tribal Monthly Meeting

Seskēha/August 1, 2009  
Chairperson: Chief Monica Jacobs

## 1. Welcome:

- Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
- Approval of Action Items

## 2. Akwesasne Semester - Brenda Papineau

## 3. Land Dispute Ordinance - Danielle Thompson

## 4. Animal Control Ordinance - Derek Comins

## 5. Update on Mohawk School - Sub-Chief Stacy Adams

## 6. Tribal Meeting Minutes

## 7. New Business

- Update of D.C. Meetings - Chief Mark Garrow

## 8. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk

## 9. Adjournment

## Action Items:

- To look into creating a survey and forming some type of committee to ask questions regarding minutes and meetings, as they did in the past. - Tabled to September's meeting.
- To have the State of NY do a health study of the Mohawk School.
- Who oversees H.U.D. in regards to whom is given jobs to build houses and how native preference is looked into.
- To have a report on August money and publicized in the form of a tribal presentation.
- The Animal Control Ordinance was actually passed and signed off on, in the form of a TCR (2009-51).
- Motion made and passed to file a boundary claim for the Hogansburg Triangle.

## Handouts

### Press Releases:

- Tribe Hires New General Manager for Akwesasne Mohawk Casino - *Casino has "Great Potential"*
- Tribal Environment Division Employee Receives National Recognition - Nominated for "Driver of the Year"
- Tribal Police Now Investigating Two Recent Deaths - *One Investigation Continues and Another One Opened*
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Welcomes Re-Opening of Bridge - *International Border Now Open to Travel and Commerce*

### Ordinances:

- Land Dispute Resolution Ordinance - *Draft*
- Animal Control Ordinance - *Final*

### Other Documents:

- Formal request by landowners for a Tribal Council Resolution to proceed with a civil case against the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York regarding the Hogansburg Triangle land claims.
- Mohawk Bingo Palace Unaudited Financial Reports as of May 31, 2009.



# It's In Our Hands

## Our Participation in the 2010 Census Matters



Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal and state funds are allocated to tribes and states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.

Census data guide local decision makers in important community and tribal planning efforts, including decisions such as where to build child-care facilities, community centers, roads, and schools.

Tribal governments and planners rely on census data to determine where there is a need for social services. Federal and state agencies also use census data to determine vital funding for tribal development programs, education, and health care services.

It's simple and safe to complete the 2010 Census. The questionnaire asks only a few questions of each person:

- name
- relationship
- gender
- age
- date of birth
- race
- whether the respondent owns or rents their home

*In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will define who we are as a nation with the decennial census population count. It is vital that the 2010 Census have an accurate count of our Tribe. Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is in our hands.*



All responses are protected by law and strictly confidential. All census workers, including tribal members working for the Census Bureau, take an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. By law (Title 13, U.S. Code), the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including the tribal government, tribal programs, or any other tribal, federal or state entity.

The 2000 Census reported that the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation had 2,699 residents. This number was used to provide state

and federal funding for:

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Higher Education and Student Assistance
- Early Childhood Development Program - Daycare
- Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Housing and Urban Development

Akwesasne's participation in the 2010 Census will ensure programs and services receive the funding they are entitled to for our population base.



# Tribal Environment Division Employee Receives National Recognition

*Nominated for "Driver of the Year"*

*by David T. Staddon, Editor*

Solid Waste Disposal employee, Russell D. Phillips received an award from the Environmental Industry Association (EIA) after being nominated for "Driver of the Year." Phillips won a national second place award for his service to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal community and to the benefit of the environment. "This is probably the first award to a Native American and a tribal entity in this category," stated Laura Weber, Solid Waste Manager of the tribe's solid waste program. "You are receiving this award in honor of the work you do here," she said as she presented him with a plaque, a jacket, a keychain and a satchel on Tuesday, July 21st, in recognition for his outstanding service.

The award was presented through the EIA's Public Sector category. Eligible organizations in the Public Sector consist of local, county, city, state or federal government entities or institutions with a solid waste management operation. Criteria for the award were years of driving



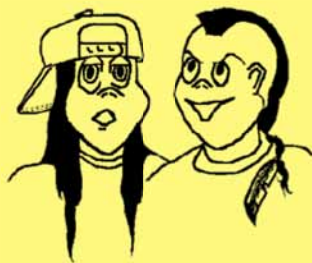
experience, safety record, completion of a defensive driving course, route duties, number of miles driven and route location. Weber presented the award to Phillips at a regularly scheduled staff meeting of the Environment Division.

"I was wondering why Laura told me to wear my good shirt for the staff meeting," laughed Russell. "I

was completely surprised at receiving this award and appreciate Laura's efforts in nominating me for it." Members of the staff congratulated him for his service and the recognition he received.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe has been successfully operating a solid waste management system since 1997. The Tribe originally developed its Environment Division in 1982 in response to the pollution discovered on the Massena General Motors Powertrain Plant and the Alcoa Aluminum properties. The Environmental Protection Agency has designated both sites as Superfund cleanup sites.

## Keep it Clean



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Kentenha/October 24th  
is the next household hazardous  
waste collection day

# Employee Recognition

## Tribe Honors Long-Time Employees

by David T. Staddon, Editor

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino hosted the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Employee Appreciation Day luncheon on Friday, July 24th. Sixty-one employees were recognized for their years of service for their work with the tribe, from five years of service to 30 years.

Tribal Chiefs James Ransom and Monica Jacobs, along with Tribal Sub-Chiefs Pam Brown and Stacy Adams were on hand to express their appreciation. They met and individually congratulated each and every employee present at the luncheon. Both Chief Ransom and Jacobs noted that any organization or project is a team effort and the tribe could not have made the progress it has made without the contributions of its employees.

Tribal Council and the Tribal Human Resource staff recognized 29 employees with certificates for five years of service. Thirteen employees received pens for ten year of service with another 13 employees receiving desk sets for 15 years. In recognition of their 20 years of service, Rod Garrow and Bill Arquette each received plaques. Beverly Cook, Lori Thompson and Deborah Cooke received a sweet-grass basket and three days off for 25 years of service and Lynelle Phillips received a black-ash basket and one week off for her 30 years of service to the tribe.

All employees being recognized for their years of service enjoyed a buffet-style, delicious luncheon served by the casino's excellent food and beverage department. Congratulations to all employees for their dedication and service to the tribe and the Akwesasne Community!



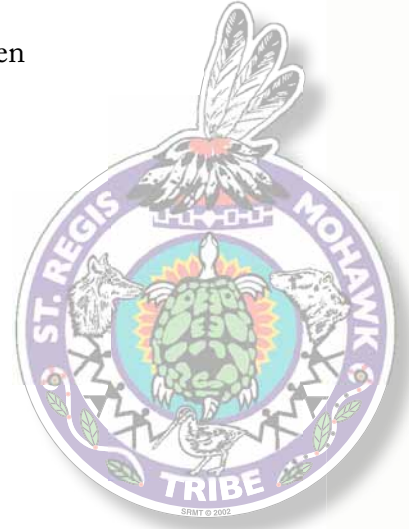


## 5 Years

Mario Aguirre  
Laurey Benedict  
Leslie D. Benedict, Jr.  
Allen Bero  
Jennifer Brown  
Kenneth Burwell  
Melissa Carr  
Alison J. Chatland  
Wesley Cook  
Trenia M. Gero

Alison Herne  
Joe L. Hurteau  
Jeremy J. Hutchins  
Jeri Jacobs  
Jacqueline A. Lauzon  
Theresa Martin  
Joanne L. McDonald  
Curtis J. Mitchell  
Mary Pecore  
Justin R. Point

Jennifer Sawyer  
Ma Excelsa Kho Serabien  
Tracey L. Soulia  
Calvan L. Thomas  
Steven F. Thomas  
Charles F. Thompson  
Marlene E. Thompson  
Wendy Tremblay  
Vanna A. White



## 10 Years

Ann Marie Bero  
Florence Deon  
Ross Garrow  
Glenn A. Hill, Jr.

Randolph Jock  
Cherrie A. Lazore  
Jason A. McDonald  
Nicole McDonald

Sara Montoya  
Helen A. Pyke  
George Ransom  
Elaine F. Thompson  
Ernest Thompson

## 15 Years

Gloria Benedict  
Loretta E. Benedict  
Jonathan Bero  
Wayne A. Bero

Elaine Castor  
Jill Conrad  
Vikki A. Dixon  
Duane M. Greenfield

Michelle Hopps  
Sharon Jackson  
Paula McCargar  
Eleanor Ransom  
Tina Tarbell

## 20 Years

William Arquette  
Roderick Garrow



## 25 Years

Beverly Cook  
Deborah A. Cook  
Lori J. Thompson



## 30 Years

Lynelle Phillips



# Higher Education

*By Rod Cook, Higher Education*

St. Lawrence University is offering a GRADUATE level class, **EDPS550B- Human Development and Life Span Counseling**. This class begins Tuesday, September 8, 2009 and will be held at the Community Building from 4 pm to 7pm in the upstairs boardroom.

There are many students who have chosen to attend a community college. Have you completed and returned your **Certificate of Residency** yet? If not, the community college could double your tuition fee.

Don't be afraid to get involved with on-campus activities; take a look and see the bigger picture. On-campus activities and clubs could open doors to unseen opportunities and may tap into a side of you that you

didn't know you had. From cheering on the basketball team to fundraising to "go-green", there are many chances to make new connections and friends.

Congratulations to all scholars whose grades were recognized by your respective schools.

Lastly, congratulations to over 45 students who persevered and successfully completed the requirements for their associates and bachelors degrees. Further congratulations to those who completed the requirements for their Master Degrees.

Remember, work hard, play fair and have fun. Good luck to all who will be leaving soon to return to campus and to those who are leaving for the first time, home is just a phone call away.

## Correction

*By David T. Staddon, Editor*

In last month's newsletter, we incorrectly listed the catering service that provided the meal at the inauguration ceremony in July. The provider was **B & S Catering**, owned by Betty McDonald and Sheila Hill.

They started their business in 2004 and will cater to a variety of events. To find out more about their business or to schedule an event, please contact them at: 518-358-2462. We did get one thing right. It was delicious!



## Parade Of Nations

*By Marie Morrell,*

*Executive Director Parade of Nations*

The Committee of the Foundation of the Parade of Nations is seeking participants in its 3rd annual parade event. Since this is an historical parade, the Mohawk Nation will be first in the parade.

This year's parade will take place on September 26th, at 2:00 pm. It will start from St. Lawrence College to terminate at the Cornwall Civic Complex to be followed by festivities at the Bandshell in Lamoureux Park.

The parade's purpose is to thank everyone for their contribution to their community, to celebrate everyone's personal accomplishments no matter their size, to promote our performers, artists and artisans, and

celebrate our ancestral origins and traditions .

The 2009 theme is "Experiencing Another Culture". Anyone can be in the parade, private individuals, businesses, sport teams, charitable organizations, political parties representatives, schools, clubs of all kinds, families, everyone.

For additional information or to register please call 613-936-6873, visit our website at [www.paradeofnations.com](http://www.paradeofnations.com) or e-mail [info@paradeofnations.com](mailto:info@paradeofnations.com). Niawen:kowa.

# Tribe Adopts Animal Control Ordinance



*Recognizing the need to protect the public from certain animals and protect the well-being of animals located on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, the Tribal Council adopted an Animal Control Ordinance on July 31st, 2009.*

*“This is part of the effort of the tribe continuing to strive to provide a safe and secure community,” said Derek Comins, Tribal Animal Control Officer. “This ordinance will help to protect both community members and animals.”*

## St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Animal Control Ordinance

### Section 1. Title

This ordinance shall be known as the Animal Control Ordinance.

### Section 2. Definitions

**Animal Control Office** means the agency or department of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe or any designated representative thereof charged with administering the issuance of permits and licenses under the provisions of this ordinance.

**Animal** means any animal, dog, cat, farm animal, reptile, etc., whether domesticated or wild, that is owned, harbored or living on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation.

**At large** means an animal shall be deemed to be at large when off the property of the owner and/or not under restraint or control of the owner.

**“Dangerous” animal** means any animal that without justification attacks a person or domestic animal causing physical injury or death, or behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat, serious injury, or death to one or more persons or domestic animals.

**“Dangerous dog collar”** means a collar which consists of red stripes alternatively spaced with yellow stripes set diagonal to the rim of the collar at an angle, and at least one of the 2 colors reflects light in the dark.

**Exotic Animal** means any animal that is not normally domesticated in Akwesasne or is wild by nature. Exotic animals include but are not limited to, any of the following orders and families, whether bred in the wild or captivity, and also any of their hybrids with domestic species. The animals listed in parentheses are intended

to act as examples and are not to be construed as an exhaustive list or limit the generality of each group of animals, unless otherwise specified:

1. Non - human primates and prosimians (monkeys, chimpanzees, baboons)
2. Felidae (lions, tigers, bobcats, lynx, cougars, leopards, jaguars, not domesticated cats)
3. Canidae (wolves, coyotes, foxes, jackals, not domesticated dogs)
4. Ursidae (all bears)
5. Reptilia (all venomous snakes, all constricting snakes)
6. Crocodilia (alligators, crocodiles)
7. Proboscidae (elephants)
8. Hyanenidae (hyenas)
9. Artiodatyla (hippotamuses, giraffes, camels, not cattle or swine or sheep or goats)
10. Procyonidae (raccoons, coatis)
11. Marsupialia (kangaroos, opossums)
12. Perissodactylea (rhinoceroses, tapirs, not horses or donkeys or mules)
13. Edentara (anteaters, sloths, armadillos)
14. Viverridae (mongooses, civets, and genets)

**Humane Manner** means the care of an animal shall include, but is not limited to, adequate shelter, shade, heat, ventilation, sanitary shelter, wholesome food, and a fresh and adequate source of water, consistent with the normal requirements and feedings habits of the animal's size, species, and breed.

**Kennel** means an establishment kept for the purpose of breeding, selling, or boarding animals or engaged in training animals.

**Neutered** means an animal rendered permanently

incapable of reproduction.

**Nuisance** means an animal shall be considered a nuisance if it: is at large, damages, soils, defiles, or defecates on private property other than the owner's or on public walks and recreation areas unless such waste is immediately removed and properly disposed of by the owner; causes unsanitary, "dangerous," or offensive conditions; causes a disturbance by excessive barking or other noise making; or chases vehicles, or molests, attacks, or interferes with persons or other domestic animals on public property.

**Owner** means a person having the right of property or custody of an animal or who keeps or harbors an animal or knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by that person.

**Pound** means is a facility designated or recognized by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals.

**Restraint** means an animal shall be considered under restraint if it is fenced within the real property limits of its owner or secured by a leash or lead or under the control of an owner or a responsible person designated by the owner.

**St. Regis Mohawk Reservation** refers to the area within the exterior boundaries of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's jurisdiction.

**Tribal Animal Control Officer** refers to the person or persons designated by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to enforce this ordinance.

**Tribal Council** means the duly elected St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council consisting of three (3) chiefs and three (3) sub-chiefs.

**Tribal Court** refers to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court which shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to preside over all proceedings relating to summons and complaints filed under this ordinance.

**Unaltered** means any animal that has not been neutered.

**Wild Animal** means any animal which is now or historically has been found in the wild, or in the wild state. This term includes, but is not limited to, animals such as: Deer, skunk, opossum, raccoon, mink, armadillo, coyote, squirrel, fox, wolf and wolf-dog hybrids.

**Wildlife sanctuary** means an area specially designated for the protection of wildlife and wherein it is illegal to interfere in anyway with the natural habitat.

### Section 3. Owner Responsibilities and Offenses

- A. All animals shall be kept under restraint. Owners of "aggressive" animal(s), as determined by the Animal Control Officer, must take extra caution that their animal(s) are not given free, unsupervised access to the general public.
- B. An owner must ensure that his animal is not a nuisance in any way to the general public. The owner of every animal shall be held responsible for every behavior of such animal under the provisions of this ordinance.
- C. An owner must ensure that his animal is properly cared for in a humane manner.
- D. Animals are not to be left unattended in a vehicle in extreme heat or cold temperatures. Animals left in a vehicle in hot or cold temperatures may be subject to seizure or impoundment. If extreme heat or cold is a factor, the Animal Control Officer or the Tribal Police may enter the vehicle with force if necessary to aid an unattended animal
- E. Owners shall ensure that their animal carries identification at all times in the form of a microchip, tag, or other means to allow easy identification of the owner.
- F. A person shall not abandon, investigate, torture, injure, kill, or poison an animal whether it belongs to him or another; or, inflict any act of cruelty on any animal with the exception of Section 4 of this ordinance.
- G. No person shall own, keep, or harbor any dog or cat over four months of age within St. Regis Mohawk Reservation unless such dog or cat is vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A certificate of vaccination shall be issued to the owner of each animal vaccinated. Each owner shall also receive a durable vaccination tag indicating the year in which it was issued. The provisions of this section do not apply to animals held in a government operated or licensed animal shelter.
- H. Any dog, not under the control of the owner, that bites a person, shall be quarantined under the authority of the Animal Control Officer/Department. The animal control department may order the owner to quarantine their dog for a period not exceeding 10 days. Any dog subject to quarantine may be destroyed after 10 days.
- I. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section



shall result in a fine. Fines shall be used to offset costs associated with the Animal Control Program.

#### **Section 4. Exemption**

If any dog shall, without justification, attack a person, a companion animal, farm animal or domestic animal, or behaves in a manner which a reasonable person would believe poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of serious physical injury to a person or such animal, when such person or animal is peaceably conducting himself in a place where he or it may lawfully be, such person or any other person witnessing the attack or threatened attack may destroy such dog and no liability in damages or otherwise shall be incurred on account of such destruction.

#### **Section 5. Issuance of Summons**

The Animal Control Officer shall issue a Summons to a person when, based upon personal observation, eye witness reports or investigation, the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the owner has committed a violation of this ordinance. The Summons will detail the offense, the time, date and location of offense and an exact time and date at which the owner must appear at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court.

The owner shall pay any applicable fine within 30 days from the date the Summons was issued to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court in full satisfaction of the violation. If the owner chooses to contest the citation, it must be done within the 30 days from date listed on the Summons.

The Court fee on Summons in violation of this ordinance shall be \$30.00.

#### **Section 6. Impoundment**

- A. Any animal found running at large shall be impounded by the Animal Control Officer in an animal shelter and confined in a humane manner. Immediately upon impounding the animal, the Animal Control Officer shall make every reasonable effort to notify the owner and inform such owner of the conditions whereby custody of the animal may be regained. Animals not claimed by their owners within a period of five (5) days, shall forfeit ownership of the animal, which shall then become the property of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- B. When an animal is found running at large and its ownership is verified by the Animal Control Officer, he may exercise the option of serving the owner with a Summons of violation in lieu of impounding

the animal.

- C. Any dog that has been impounded and deemed, by the Animal Control Officer, to be aggressive shall not be released to its owner until that owner has satisfied the Animal Control Office that the aggressive behavior no longer poses a threat to the safety or health of any person or animal or reasonable steps have been undertaken by the owner which ensures the safety of the community.
    1. The owner of an aggressive dog shall keep the dog restrained, as defined in section 2 of this ordinance, at all times.
    2. Any dog deemed aggressive by the animal control officer may be required, at the officer's discretion, to wear a dangerous dog collar at all times
  - D. In the event that the Animal Control Office finds an animal(s) to be suffering, it shall have the right forthwith to remove or cause to have removed the animal(s) to a safe place for care at the owner's expense; or, to euthanize the animal(s) when necessary to prevent further suffering. Return of an impounded animal(s) to the owner may be withheld until the owner shall have made full payment of violation and for all expenses so incurred.
  - E. Disposal of an animal by the Animal Control Office or the owner does not relieve the owner of liability for violations and any accrued charges.
- #### **Section 7. Enforcement and Authority**
- A. The Animal Control Officer is hereby delegated and shall have the power to seize animals, and/or to use physical force when necessary to protect self, others, and other animals.
  - B. The Animal Control Officer shall have the power to enter property (public or private) when in the course of executing the duties and obligations under this ordinance, when he has reasonable cause to believe a violation of this ordinance is occurring and has reason to believe that a potential harm has occurred, or is about to occur.
  - C. At any and all times, the Animal Control Officer shall have the right to inspect the animal(s) and where it is housed within the jurisdiction of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and upon reasonable notice. Any party who intentionally interferes with or obstructs the inspection violates this ordinance.
  - D. The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority

to issue summons to the Tribal Court for the enforcement of this ordinance.

- E. The Animal Control Office shall have the authority to solicit and apply for any grants or assistance in the performance of his duties under the ordinance including but not limited to spaying, neutering and public information ads.
- F. The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to adopt regulations and policies as necessary to implement this Ordinance.

#### **Section 8. Issuance and revocation of permits and licenses**

RESERVED

#### **Section 9. Redemption**

- A. Any animal impounded may be redeemed by the owner thereof within five (5) days upon payment of an impoundment fees. Impoundment fees shall be inclusive of food, shelter, and services rendered pursuant to a fee schedule established by the Animal Control Office. Payment of impoundment fees is not considered to be in lieu of any fine, penalty, or license fees.
- B. Any animal confined for rabies quarantine, evidence, or other purpose may be redeemed by the owner thereof upon payment of a fee plus incurred expenses.
- C. Any animal required to be licensed or vaccinated under this ordinance may NOT be redeemed until provisions for such licensing and vaccination have been fulfilled.
- D. The owner must pay all fines and fees prior to animal being returned.

#### **Section 10. Pound and Adoption**

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe shall establish a temporary pound and said pound shall be operated by the Animal Control Office in a secure and humane manner and environment.

- A. Any dog in the custody of the pound not claimed by their owner within five (5) days, or seized from their owner for just cause, shall become the property of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- B. Any dog that is deemed suitable for adoption, by the Animal Control Office, may be adopted as an option to euthanasia. An adoption fee shall be assessed at the time of adoption. No dog shall be released for adoption as a pet without being neutered.

Vaccination fees, licensing fees, and veterinary costs may be assessed above and beyond the adoption fee.

#### **Section 11. Wild or Exotic Animals**

- A. No person shall knowingly possess, harbor, sell, barter, transfer, exchange or import any wild or exotic animal for use as a pet within the territory of Akwesasne, except that this section shall not apply to the following persons and entities with respect to wild or exotic animals owned or harbored by them solely for a purpose other than for use as a pet:

1. Licensed veterinarians and incorporated humane societies, or animal shelters, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals or animal welfare organizations duly licensed by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe or other recognized licensing authority, in the temporary possession of wild animals;
2. A person having custody of a wild animal solely for the purpose of transporting it to a licensed veterinarian, wildlife rehabilitator, humane society or other entity authorized by this section to handle or treat wild animals;

- B. The Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this section and issue notices of violation to persons in violation of this section, and shall have the authority to seize any wild or exotic animal held in violation of this section. Wild or Exotic animals seized or surrendered pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be transferred to a duly incorporated wildlife sanctuary as defined in this section, or a zoological facility accredited by the American Zoological and Aquarium Association, or shall be humanely euthanized.

- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who knowingly breeds a wild or exotic animal or knowingly possesses, owns, harbors, sells, barter, transfers, exchanges, or imports a wild or exotic animal for use as a pet in violation of the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalty of not more than \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) for the first offense and not more than \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) for a second and subsequent offenses. Each instance of breeding, owning, harboring, sale, barter, transfer, exchange, or import of a wild or exotic animal in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

- D. Grandfather Clause: Any person who owns,



possesses, keeps or harbors exotic or wild animal(s) on or before the effective date of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue ownership or possession as long as they meet all the requirements set in this Ordinance, however, these animals may not be bred and once they die, they may not be replaced.

#### **Section 12. Interference**

No person shall interfere, hinder, or molest any agent of the Animal Control Office in the performance of any duty as herein provided.

Any person violating this section shall be deemed guilty of a civil fine of not more than one thousand dollars \$1,000.00 and may be liable for a criminal offense.

#### **Section 13. Inter-Agency Cooperation**

The Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to coordinate and cooperate with area agencies, including but not limited to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Environment Division; the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Compliance Department, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and any other agency as may be necessary and appropriate.

#### **Section 14. Repeals**

The Dog Ordinance, TCR 2001-155, is hereby repealed in its entirety and all other ordinances of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

#### **Section 15. Severability**

If any part of this ordinance shall be held invalid, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this ordinance.

#### **Section 16. Amendment**

This Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

#### **Section 17. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

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**This Ordinance known as the Animal Control Ordinance has been duly enacted by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.**

James W. Ransom 7/30/09  
James W. Ransom, Tribal Chief Date

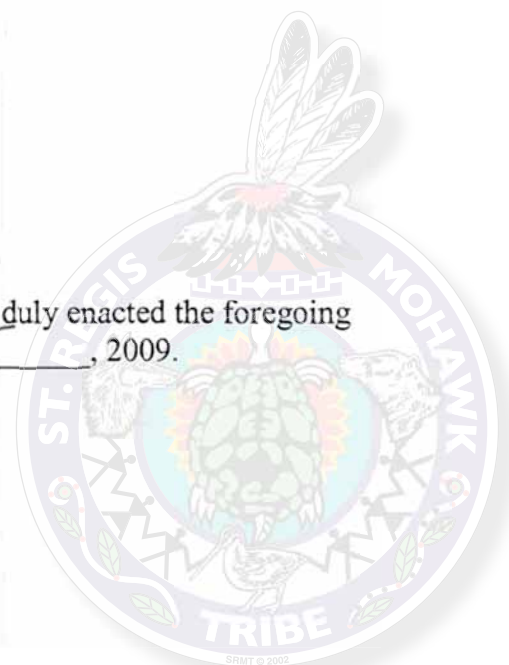
Monica M. Jacobs 7/31/09  
Monica M. Jacobs, Tribal Chief Date

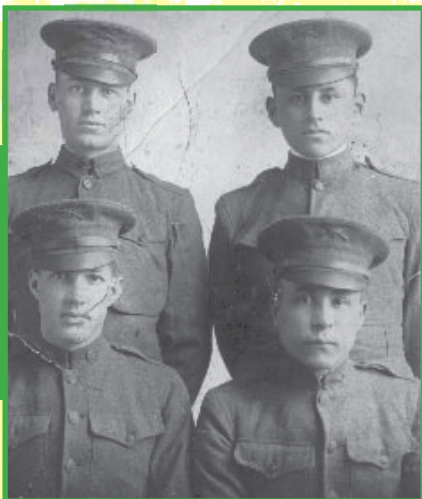
Mark H. Garrow 7/31/09  
Mark H. Garrow, Tribal Chief Date

I hereby certify that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has duly enacted the foregoing Animal Control Ordinance this 3rd day of August, 2009.

Corleen Jackson-Jacco  
Corleen Jackson-Jacco, Tribal Clerk

-SEAL-





# WAY OF THE WARRIOR

Mountain Lake PBS  
Native American series on  
Seskehkó:wa/September 20th  
at 1:00 p.m.

Way of the Warrior uses personal stories of heroes and soldiers to examine the warrior ethic in Indian Country and to try to answer the question why military service is so highly valued in Native communities. These gripping stories from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam weave a tapestry of positive and negative themes—the warrior ethic, prejudice and stereotypes, forced assimilation, poverty, cultural pride, redemptive acts and healing. The documentary uses historical footage, period photographs, Native music, personal diaries and interviews to reveal what it means to be “ogichidaa,” one who protects and follows the way of the warrior.

During WWI, at least 12,000 Native men enlisted in the military, even though many of them were not citizens and not required to serve. The most popular recruitment centers were Indian Boarding Schools—often harsh places of forced assimilation where Indian children marched to classes and Native boys drilled in cadet uniforms. This repressive environment, according to historian Thomas Britten, promoted “a seamless transition from boarding schools to training camps to the front lines.” Some served because of economics. Some wanted adventure. Some belonged to “warrior” clans. Others served out of a sense of patriotism, both to their own Indian nation and to the United States.

<http://www.wpt.org/wayofthewarrior/index.cfm>



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